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SOURCE InvestiyaMINISTER CITES USSR MACHINE BUILDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

S. A. Akopov  
 Minister of Machine Building USSR

In the first 6 months of 1953, under the 1953 reduced wholesale prices, enterprises of the Ministry of Machine Building USSR showed a profit of 3.8 percent, as compared with 1.8 percent in 1952. As a result, 1953 payments into the [state] budget by the ministry increased 1.9 times as compared with 1952. In the first 6 months of 1953, the ministry fulfilled its gross production plan. However, in the first quarter 1953, production costs were reduced only 5.7 percent instead of a plan figure of 7.7 percent. In June, production costs were reduced 10 percent, as against a second quarter plan of 9.7 percent.

A number of ministry enterprises failed to fulfill both their production plans and their plans for reducing production costs, including such plants as the Novosibirsk Tyazhstankogidropress Plant, the Belinskiy Agricultural Machine Building Plant, and others. The ministry still has a number of enterprises that are operating at a loss.

Overexpenditure of wage funds and materials still takes place, and losses due to rejects are still high, sometimes amounting to 1.8 percent of the cost of gross production.

Directives of the 19th Party Congress called for an increase in the production rate of machine building and metalworking products of almost 200 percent during the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

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Comrade Zverev [Minister of Finance USSR] has already reported on the considerable amount of funds that has been assigned for the further expansion of agriculture. To make this expansion possible, the Ministry of Machine Building will have to furnish equipment for the mechanization of labor-consuming agricultural tasks.

In the postwar period, the machine building industry has produced more than 8.5 million assorted agricultural machines. [See 10-M-28543 for concluding figure.] The industry is producing a considerable number of new-type machines, including sugar-beet harvesters, cotton pickers, self-propelled mowers, hay stackers, and other machines.

Now that the problem of mechanizing grain growing and harvesting has been solved, we must direct our attention to mechanizing all phases of the growing and harvesting of industrial crops -- cotton, flax, hemp, and sugar beets. Similarly, the growing of potatoes, other vegetables, and fodder crops, and the tasks connected with animal husbandry must be mechanized.

It must be pointed out that we are taking too much time to develop the designs of some new [Agricultural] machines.

The output of tractors and trucks has expanded considerably in the postwar period. A 16.8-percent increase in motor vehicle production is planned for 1953 over the 1952 figure.

The Ministry of Petroleum Industry, in the near future, should improve refining processes and organize the production of high-quality gasolines that meet the requirements of modern automotive engines.

Construction of machine tool building plants and press and forging machine building plants already started must be completed at a quicker pace. The Ministry of Construction USSR must eliminate the lag in the construction of the largest machine tool building plants.

The Ministry of Machine Building must improve the quality, increase the variety, and increase the output of consumers' goods. In the past few years, ministry enterprises have produced more than 36 million clocks and watches, about 2 million sewing machines, and 3.3 million bicycles. The ministry is taking measures to expand the production of these and other types of consumers' goods.

Some ministry plants chronically fail to fulfill their state plans, including the Podolsk Machinery Plant, which has not been fulfilling its plan for the output of sewing machines; The Moscow Frezer Plant; the Moscow Grinding Machine Plant; and other plants. Some ministry plants are still turning out low-quality machines.

Late or incomplete delivery of materials to machine building plants is a factor that often holds up production schedules and creates artificial bottlenecks.

The Ministry of Machine Building will strive to eliminate shortcomings in its work, fulfill its 1953 goals, and improve the quality of its output.

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